

CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method of generating a user personalised
5 filter for processing files, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) establishing communication with a server;
 - (b) employing at least one software tool operated by the server to
generate a personal profile, the profile comprising one or more topics, and
associated with the or each topic, at least one keyword and at least one text
10 document;
 - (c) employing processing software operated by the server to
generate, for the or each topic, a filter from the associated keywords and text
documents.
- 15 2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said text documents comprise
at least one first text document consisting only of text and at least one second
text document comprising both text and at least one multimedia file, said step
of generating the filter operating on at least the text portion of the second text
document.
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3. A method according to Claim 2 in which said multimedia file is one of
(i) an image file, (ii) a video file or (iii) a sound file.
4. A method according to Claim 1 in which, in said step of employing said
25 software tool, the user inputs at least one said text document.

5. A method according to Claim 1 in which, in said step of employing said software tool, the user inputs a location of at least one said text document, and an application program operated by the server downloads the at least one text document from the location, such as through an open communication
5 protocol interface.
6. A method according to Claim 1 in which the or each topic describes a focused information interest or need of the user
- 10 7. A method according to Claim 1 in which each of the keywords is one of (i) a single natural language word, (ii) a combination of single natural language words or (iii) a phrase.
8. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the tools include tools to
15 perform at least one of the operations of (i) creating, (ii) updating, (iii) combining, (iv) removing and (v) renaming the topics.
9. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said tools include tools to
20 perform at least one of the operations of (i) inputting, (ii) updating and (iii) removing keywords.
10. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) inputting, (ii) updating and (iii) removing text documents.

11. A method according to Claim 1 in which each filter further comprises for each topic at least one numerical parameter, said parameter being for controlling the processing of documents based on said filter.

5 12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) setting and (ii) resetting said parameters, or returning said parameters to (iii) previous values or (iv) default values.

10 13. A computer-implemented method of generating a user personalised filter for processing files, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing communication with a server;

(b) employing at least one software tool operated by the server to generate a personal profile by inputting data, said profile comprising input
15 data associated with at least two topics;

(c) employing processing software operated by the server to generate, for each topic, a filter from the respective input data;

(d) employing combination software operated by the server to combine the input data from at least two of the topics, and the processing
20 software to generate a new filter based on the combined input data.

14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the new filter replaces an existing filter.

25 15. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the new filter supplements the existing filters.

16. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of establishing communication with a server is performed by a user employing a HTTP browser operated by a first computer system, the server comprising an HTTP server application program operated by a second computer system.
17. A method according to Claim 13 wherein said step of establishing communication with a server is performed by a user employing a HTTP browser operated by a first computer system, the server comprising an HTTP server application program operated by a second computer system.
18. A method of processing a plurality of files in a database, the method including:
- generating at least one filter according to any preceding claim;
 - for each filter, determining a relevance of each file to the topic associated with each filter by comparing the file to the filter, and process the files on the basis of the processing parameter.
19. A method according to Claim 11 in which:
- said parameters include at least one processing parameter;
 - said step of comparing the file to the filter includes deriving a numerical relevance index of the file to the respective topic, and
 - for a file for which the relevance parameter is lower than said processing parameter, the file is assessed to be unrelated to the respective topic.

20. A method according to Claim 19, in which the files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter are transmitted to the user.

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21. A method according to Claim 19 wherein the said user can instruct the server to cache any files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter until it is needed by the said user.

10 22. A method according to Claim 18 in which:

said parameters include at least one processing parameter;

said step of comparing the file to the filter includes deriving a numerical relevance index of the file to the respective topic, and

15 for a file for which the relevance parameter is lower than said processing parameter, the file is assessed to be unrelated to the respective topic.

20 23. A method according to Claim 22, in which the files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter are transmitted to the user.

24. A method according to Claim 22 wherein the said user can instruct the server to cache any files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter until it is needed by the said user.

25. A method according to Claim 1 which is performed at predetermined time intervals.

- 5 26. A computer apparatus arranged for communication with at least one user, the apparatus comprising:

one software tool controllable by the user to generate a personal profile, the profile comprising one or more topics, and associated with the or each topic, at least one keyword and at least one text document; and

- 10 processing software to generate, for the or each topic, a filter from the associated keywords and text documents.

27. A computer apparatus arranged for communication with at least one user, the apparatus comprising:

- 15 at least one software tool controllable by the user to generate a personal profile by inputting data, said profile comprising input data associated with at least two topics;

processing software controllable by the user to generate, for each topic, a filter from the respective input data;

- 20 combination software controllable by the user to combine the input data from at least two of the topics; and

processing software to generate a new filter based on the combined input data.

28. A computer program product, such as a recording medium, readable by a computer apparatus and which causes the computing apparatus to operate as a computing apparatus according to Claim 26
29. A computer program product, such as a recording medium, readable
5 by a computer apparatus and which causes the computing apparatus to operate as a computing apparatus according to Claim 27.